

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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received

date entered

1. Name

historic Darius Sales Munger Houseand/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Museum, Sim Park N/A not for publicationcity, town Wichita N/A vicinity of congressional districtstate Kansas code 20 county Sedgwick code 173

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Wichitastreet & number City Hall Building, 455 N. Maincity, town Wichita N/A vicinity of state Kansas 672 02

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deedsstreet & number Sedgwick County Courthousecity, town Wichita state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ks. State Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate July 1971 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Departmentcity, town Topeka state Kansas 66612

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The staircase may be reached only through an opening in the west wall of the kitchen. It rises along the north wall of the main part of the house and is not part of the original construction of the building. The house was heated by stoves which vented through flues in the kitchen and in the rear room designated on the plan as # 3.

On the second floor, the main body of the house is divided into four small rooms. The second floor was reconstructed in 1952 following documentary evidence.

One of the most notable elements of the house is the original plaster remaining on the gable end walls of the second floor interior. The rough coat plaster utilizes buffalo hair as a binder and willow branches used as lath nailed to the original hewn studs.

Although work on the Munger House involved some reconstruction (principally on the second floor), there is excellent documentation for its original appearance in the form of 19th century photographs and contemporary descriptions.

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☒ moved date 1874, 1913, 1952

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Darius Sales Munger House, built in 1868, is a one and a half story, three bay log dwelling. A one story, one bay kitchen extends beyond the north end wall of the main part of the house. The house is built of cottonwood logs interlocked at the corners with half dovetailed notches. Since 1952 the building has stood in a reconstructed village known as Old Cowtown Museum which represents the early history of Wichita. The house was moved three times in its history, each time as the result of land acquisition and clearing for newer buildings. Historic Wichita-Sedgwick County, Inc., (Old Cowtown Museum), the organization that maintains the Museum, restored the house to its 1868 appearance. The Munger House had over the years been incorporated into a larger frame dwelling and was "rediscovered" in 1943 when the house was being torn down.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

The Munger House is built of hand hewn logs which are exposed to view. On their exterior surface, the gables are covered with stucco. There is an interior log wall which divides the kitchen from the rest of the house. This wall can be seen from the exterior as a vertical series of ends of logs which are located next to the northern most door of the front elevation. Originally the house faced east, but in its present location, it faces south. In this nomination all references to direction will be historic or those of the original location.

Full size windows at the first story level have six over six pane sash. On the front slope of the roof are two small gable roofed dormers, each with a four light casement window. Centered in each gable is a six over six light sash window, and in the south gable there is an additional four light casement window.

At the front elevation there are two batten doors, one in the south end bay and one in the second bay from the north end. There is a third door near the center of the south end wall. A fourth door which permitted exterior access to the second floor and its accompanying set of stairs was located high in the south gable, but it was converted to a window when the house was moved to Old Cowtown Museum.

The roof is covered with wood shingles and from it extend two small brick chimneys. One is located near the center of the main part of the house and the other is located inside the end wall of the kitchen.

The first story of the house is divided into three rooms each of which has its own entrance from the exterior. The front or southeast room is entered through the south door in the east (front) elevation. The rear room in the main part of the house which probably served as a bedroom and work room for Munger has a door in its south wall. The kitchen is entered through the second door in the front elevation, near its north end.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Date 1868 **Builder/Architect** Darius Sales Munger

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE MEETS CRITERIAS A,C.

The Darius Sales Munger House is significant as the only remaining example of the settlement period architecture of Wichita. There is substantial documentation that the Munger House was the first house in Wichita.¹ It also served as Wichita's first post office, hotel, hospital, hall of justice and community center. The house retains architectural features which are associated with early construction in the area. First, as a log building, it is one of a very few such structures in the vicinity. All of the log buildings known to exist near Wichita are associated with the period of earliest settlement. Also the use of buffalo hair and willow branches for plaster binding and lath are evidence of early construction. By the 1870's buffalo were scarce near Wichita and milled lumber and lathing were soon to be readily available. Additionally, the Munger House is important for its association with D. S. Munger who was a founder of Wichita, one of its first residents, hotel keeper and postmaster. Although the house was moved several times, each move prevented its demolition. Also, in Wichita, as well as other areas of the mid west, moving of buildings is quite commonplace and it is part of the history of many structures to have been moved once or more. The main philosophy behind the frequency of moving buildings in the midwest was that wood and other building materials were too expensive and scarce to tear down.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Darius Munger was born in Chautauqua County, New York on August 21, 1812. He spent most of his life pioneering and living in frontier communities.² He died in 1879. According to an article in the Wichita Weekly Beacon of December 10, 1879, entitled "One of the Earliest Pioneers Gone," Munger moved to Chicago in 1835, Wisconsin in 1837, Ohio in 1848, Missouri in 1850, Topeka, Kansas in 1860, and Wichita in May, 1868. The article also discusses the house that Munger built; "Mr. Munger built the first house properly so called, . . . the first service of the Episcopal Church held in Wichita, was held in the loft of this house. . . the whole work of preparing the material for building was done by Mr. Munger himself. For lath, he cut young willows and shaped them for his purpose with a pocket knife. His other tools were few and simple. He burnt the first lime used or burnt in Wichita, and made his own mortar, and also a good cement for the chimney."²

The Munger House was first moved by C. W. Woodman who acquired it in 1874. He moved the house one block south of its original location at 901 Waco St. to Eighth and Waco Streets.³ In 1913 under the ownership of Dr. Dalton H. Fuller, the house was moved a short distance to 820 Back Bay Blvd. In 1942, the house was acquired by Mrs. Robert Foulston from Dr. Fuller. She sold it to the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1944. It was acquired by Historic Wichita, Inc.* in 1952.⁴

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There are future plans to move the Munger House within the Old Cowtown Museum to an orientation and site more like its original setting.

*Former name of Historic Wichita - Sedgwick County, Inc.

¹O. H. Bentley, History of Wichita and Sedgwick Co., Kansas, Vol. 1
"Old Munger House, the First House in Wichita." Chicago: C. F. Cooper &
Co., 1910, pp. 443-445.

²"One of the Earliest Pioneers Gone," Wichita Weekly Beacon, Dec. 10, 1978,
p. 3.

³Rae Woodman, "The New Home" Wichitana, 1877-1879, p. 22.

⁴"Historic Wichita Acquires House," Morning Eagle, October 6, 1951.

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JUSTIFICATION OF MOVES

The Munger House stood on its original lot for only six years of its entire history. Its first move occurred in 1874. It is important to note that all of the moves were within a short distance of one another and the house's present location is not far from its original site. The Munger House has stood in its present location for 30 years and has acquired significance as the first house in the museum and remains one of the key buildings in the Cowtown reconstruction. Research into the early records of Wichita show that many buildings have been moved in the city. The flat terrain and wide streets makes moving of buildings a relatively simple solution to problems of siting. Moving a building continues to be a popular option in Wichita. Regardless of the fact that it was moved, the overriding significance of the Munger House is that it is the only structure left from the settlement period of this important city, the largest in Kansas.

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"Historic Wichita Acquires House", Morning Eagle, Oct. 6, 1951.

Historic Wichita, Inc. Information on file.

Isely, Bliss, "Wichita's Oldest House; Its Latest Residents," Wichita Weekly Beacon, Sept. 28, 1926.

O. H. Bentley, History of Wichita and Sedgwick Co., Kansas, Vol. 1, "Old Munger House, The First House in Wichita." Chicago: C. F. Cooper & Co., 1910, pp. 443-445.

"One of Oldest Pioneers Gone," Wichita Weekly Beacon, Vol. 10, Dec. 1879.

Reed, Douglass C., Historic Structure Report for the Darius Sales Munger Log House, Preservation Associates, Inc.: Sharpsburg, Md., 1981.

Woodman, Rae, Wichitana, 1877-1897, 1948.

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The Munger House stands among a group of commercial and residential structures established along two streets which represent the early history of Wichita. In nominating the Munger House to the National Register, a plot of land shall be included to duplicate as nearly as possible its original property and boundary. The original lots in Wichita were 25' x 140'. Since the Munger House is more than 28' wide it would have stood on two lots. However, the boundary line of the museum property dictates that half (70 ft.) of the 140' length be used to delineate the nominated property, as follows:

The south border of the lot is at a point approximately 12' west and 35' south of the southwest corner of the house, the line parallel with the west side of the house; thence along the museum property line, north east 50'; thence along a line southeast 70', and southwest for 50' back to the point of origin.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than .16

Quadrangle name Wichita East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	4	6	4	4	4	8	0	4	1	7	2	9	3	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

(see continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula Stoner Reed

organization Preservation Associates, Inc.

date January 1982

street & number P. O. Box 202

telephone (301) 432-5466

city or town Sharpsburg

state Maryland 21782

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

[Signature]

title Executive Director & State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 22, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

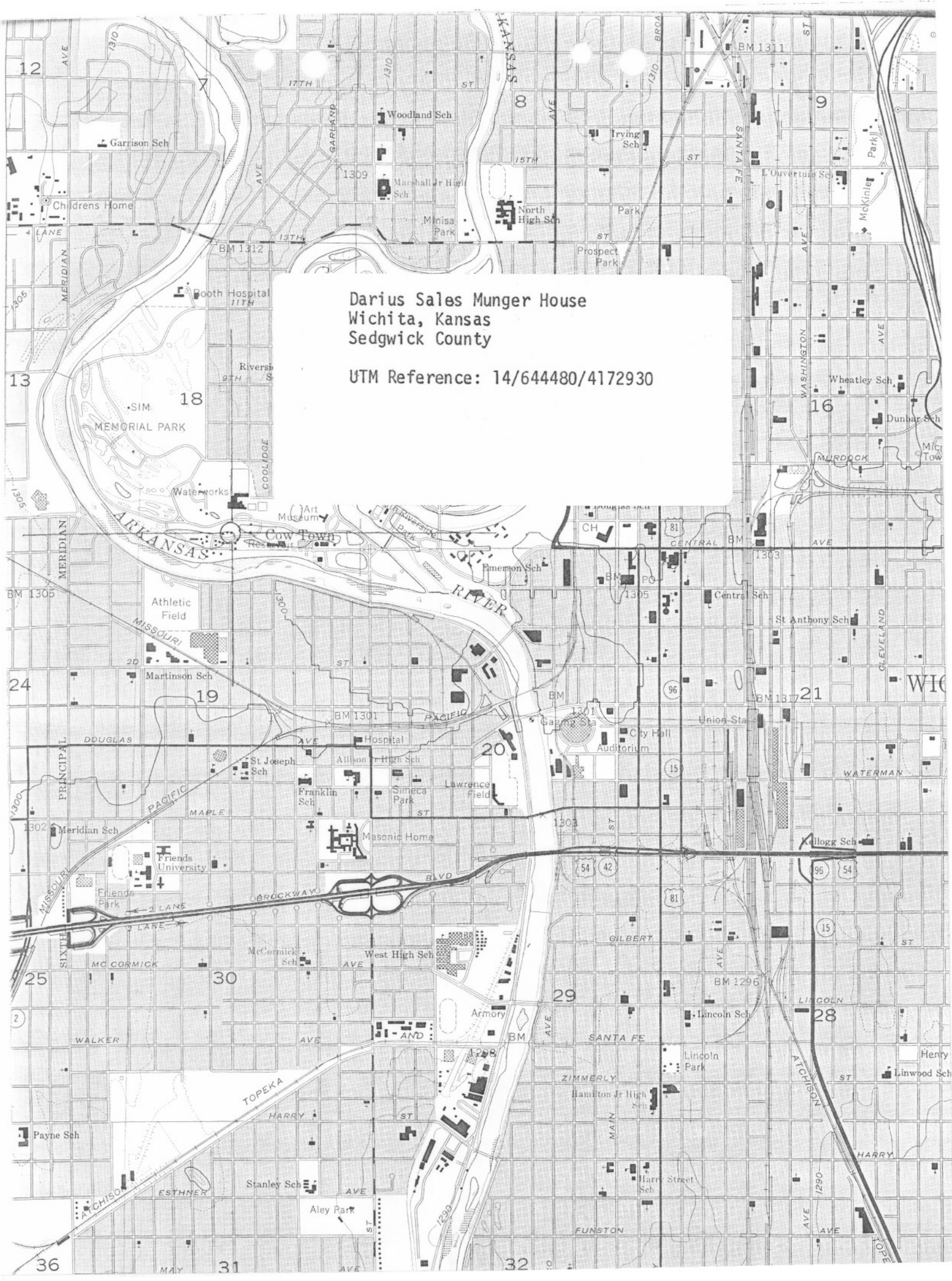
Attest:

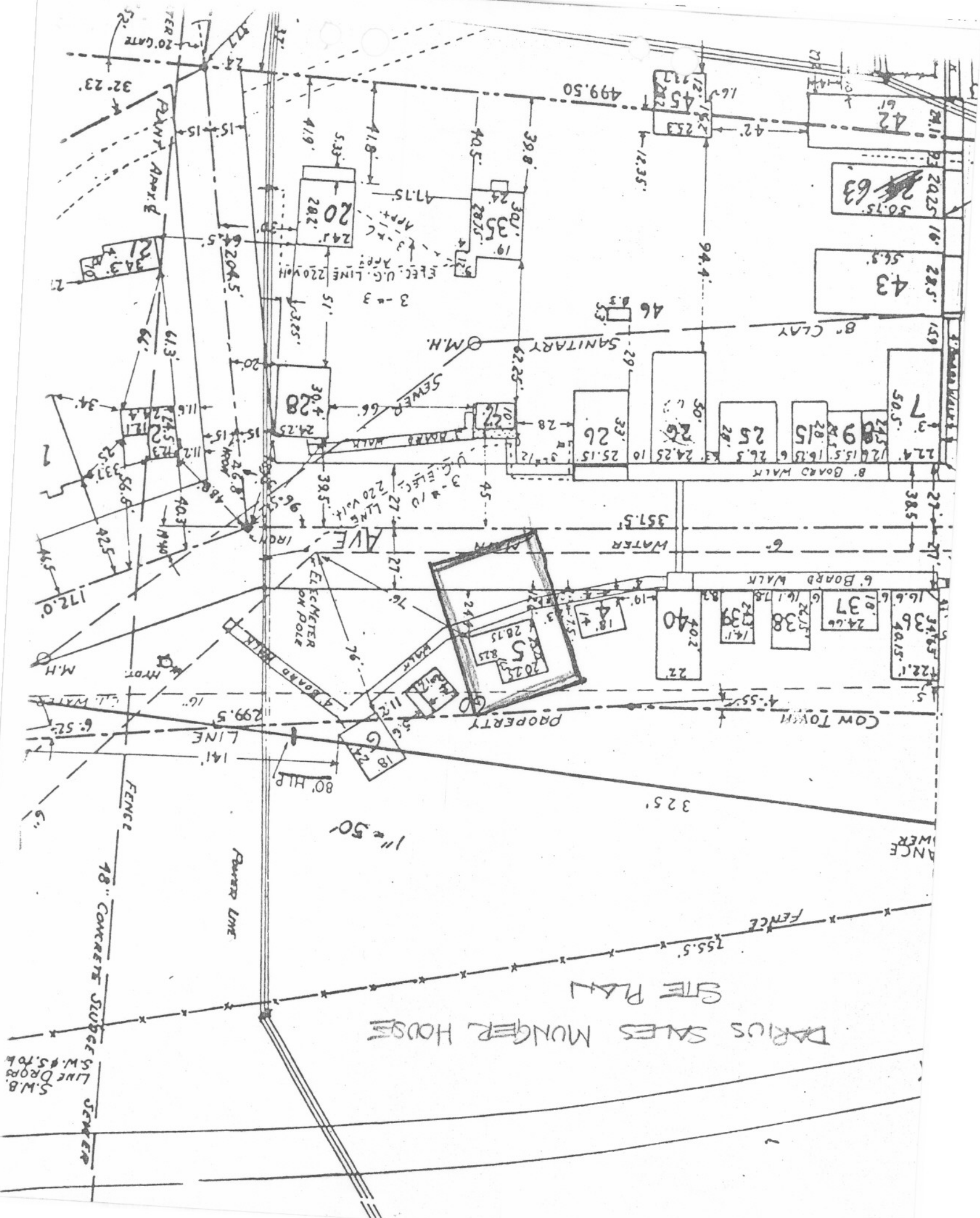
date

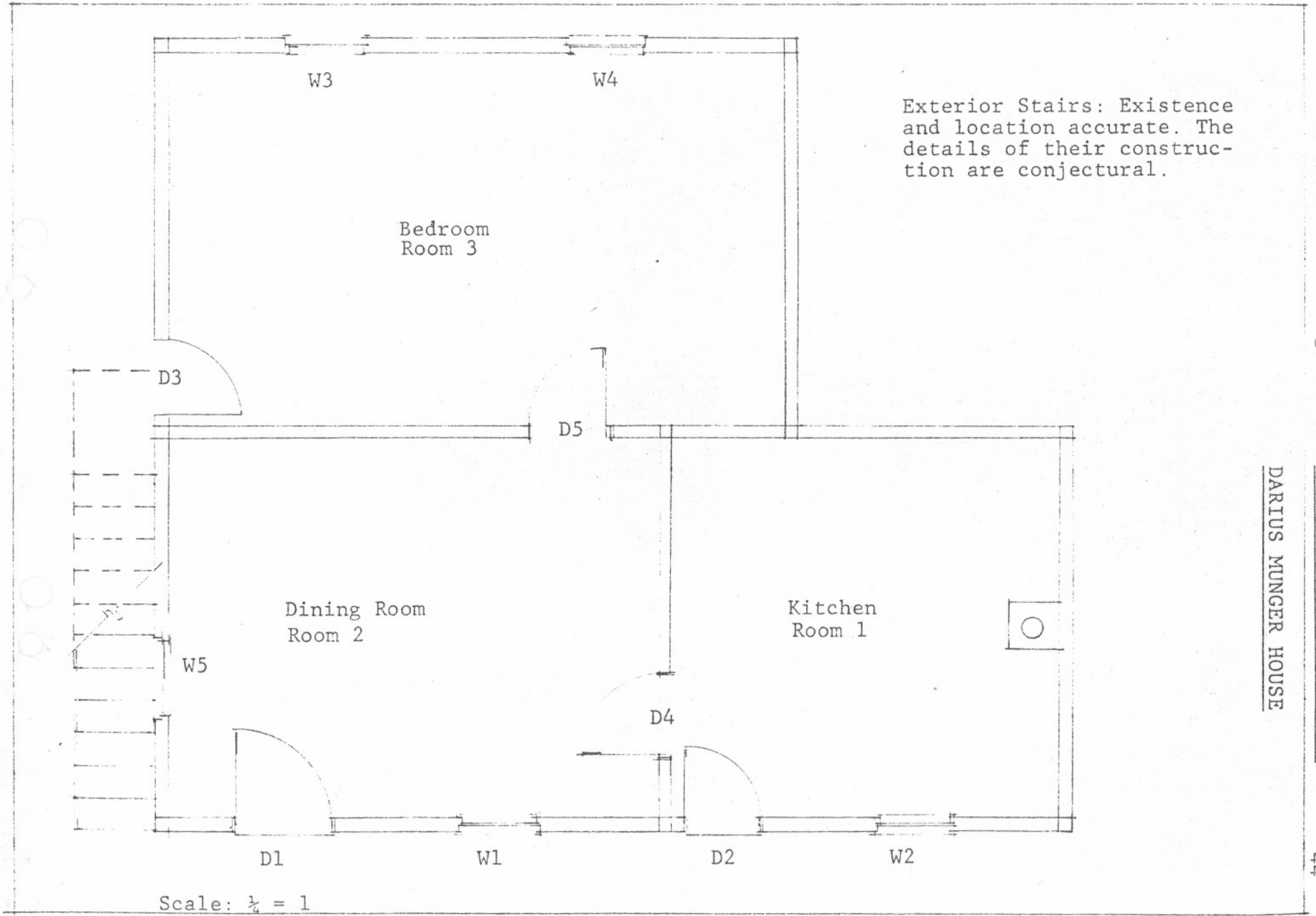
Chief of Registration

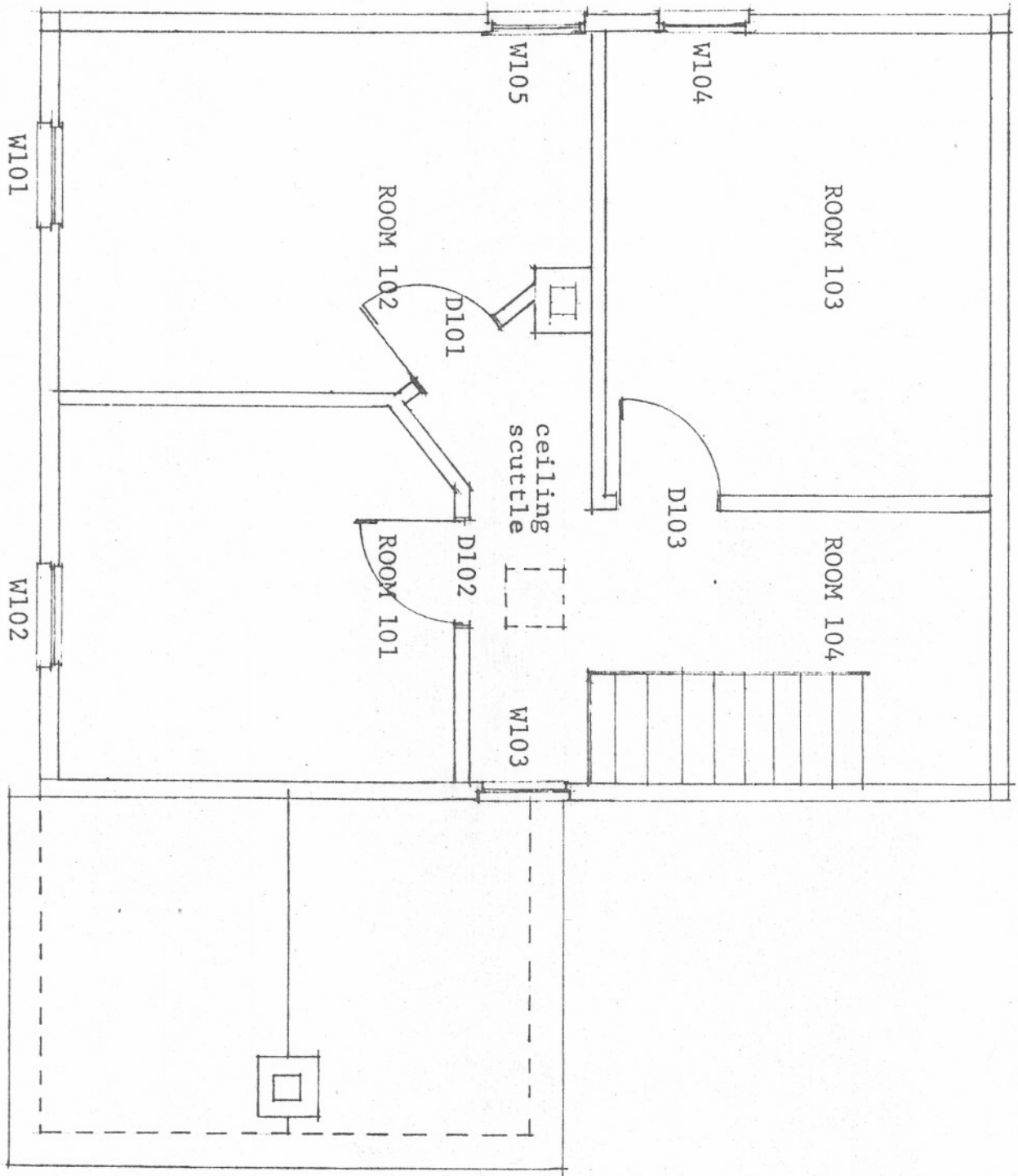
Darius Sales Munger House
Wichita, Kansas
Sedgwick County

UTM Reference: 14/644480/4172930









Scale: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'$

DARIUS SALES MUNGER HOUSE

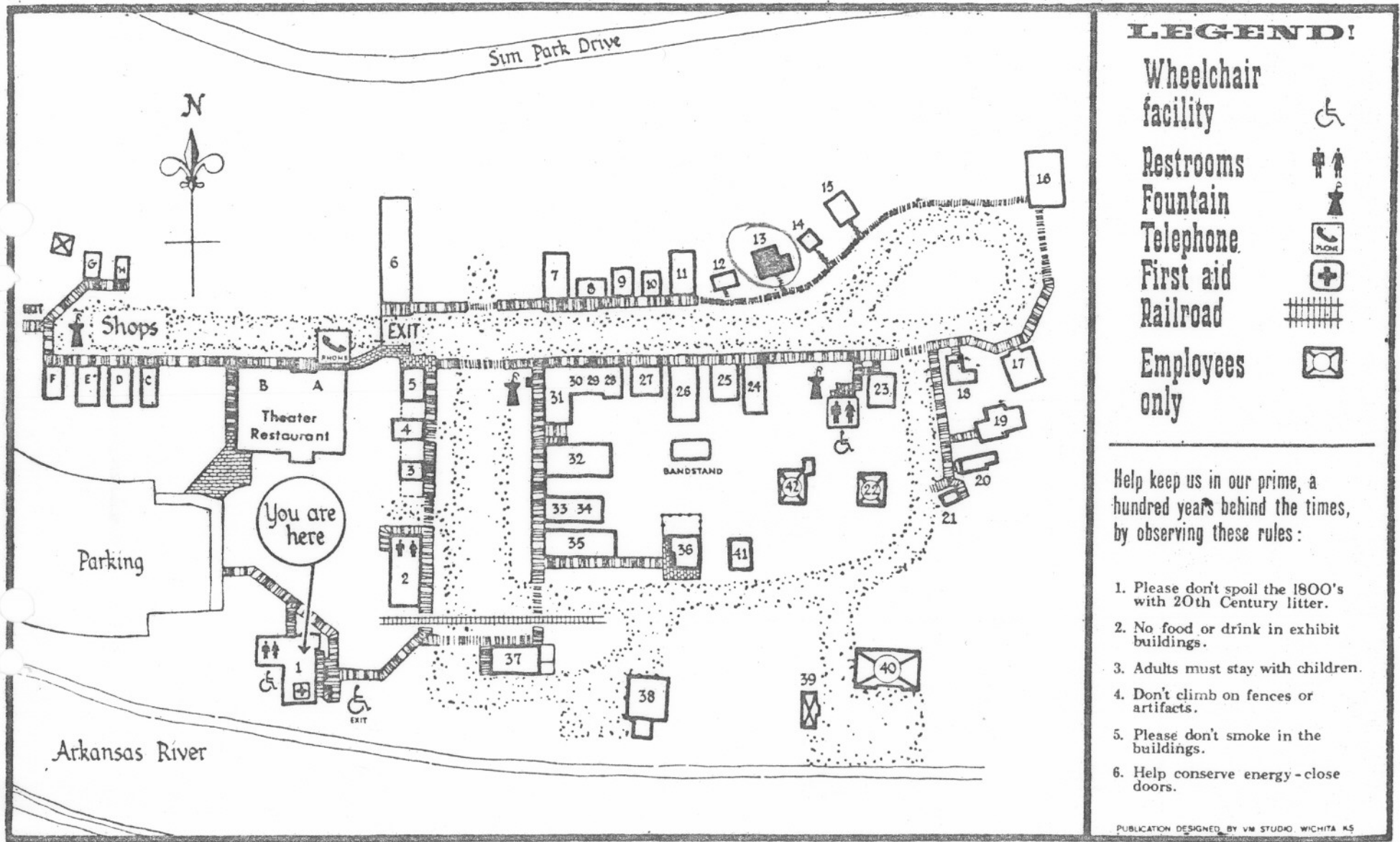


Figure 3: Site Map Of Cowtown 7

This map has been borrowed from the 1981 publication by Historic Wichita Sedgwick County, Inc. entitled An Illustrated Walking Tour Guide to Historic Wichita Cowtown.